

# Michigan Council Of Churches

205 W. SAGINAW ST. LANSING 33, MICHIGAN TELEPHONE IV 5-4395

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We sincerely believe that Michigan is confronted with a mounting threat to our religious traditions and observances. This danger is the growing practice of SUNDAY RETAIL SELLING which is spreading through the state in most all branches of Retailing, even operating under the guise of wholesale warehouse sales.

In recent months, the practice has accelerated sharply, reaching a point where merchants blatantly compete by offering "Sunday Specials." Some go so far as to urge customers to be on hand early because featured items are in limited supply. This is almost tantamount to luring people from church services and breaking up the tradition of Sunday as a family day.

At the January 21st meeting in Ann Arbor of the Michigan Council of Churches--composed of 2600 Protestant congregations--there was a strong feeling that the time has come when we must halt this desecration and gross commercialization of the Sabbath. The leaders of the Catholic faith have evidenced that they too, are similarly concerned.

Therefore, we are writing this letter to you and to each of your fellow Legislators, to appeal for your support of the pending legislative bill, H.R. 508, to restrict SUNDAY RETAIL SELLING to only necessary goods and services. Because it will be several days before that Bill will be printed and placed on your desk, we are taking the liberty of enclosing a stencilled copy so that you may know what is contained therein.

It is our understanding that a hearing on H.R. 508 will be held before the House State Affairs Committee, Thursday, 8:00 p.m., February 27, and that church, business, farm and labor leaders will then give added evidence of their support of the measure.

We will appreciate hearing from you on this proposal with any suggestions you may have as to how this objective may be pursued to a successful conclusion. Please accept our thanks for your interest and attention.

Yours cordially,

*Marshall R. Reed*

Bishop Marshall R. Reed, D.D.